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ADDITIONAL FACTS CONCERNING SIR EDMUND PLOWDEN.

BY REV. EDWARD D. NEILL, SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA.

A recent examination of the manuscript records of Northampton County, Virginia, led to the discovery of some particulars in the life of Sir Edmund Plowden, Kt., the Proprietor of New Albion, which have never appeared in print.

During the summer of A.D. 1642, he sailed for America with a friend, bearing two letters of introduction dated July 20, 1642, written by William Webb, of London. One was addressed "To my worthy friend, Mr Thomas Copley, at his plantation in Maryland." Copley was the grandson of Thomas Copley, who was the grandson of the Thomas Copley who fled from England to Paris during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and was knighted by the King of France. He was the eldest son of William Copley and his wife, Margaretta Prideaux, and was the temporal coadjutor of the Jesuit Mission in Maryland. Webb writes to him: "Worthy Sir. Upon the sight hereof I doe desire that my two friends the bearer of these . . . and assigned in the wayes there in yor plantation as myself in body; From his other ffriends & mee he shall have continual supplyes both for y^r^ province, and for New Albion where he intends to settle under Sr Edm. Plowdens government in those p'ts. . . . Wee stand in great feare of tumults and convulsions."

The other is addressed to the head of the Mission: "To his Noble Reverend Mr Andrew White, Esq. att Maryland," and is as follows: "Mr Cobbs intending toward y^r^ parts with Sr Edmund Plowden I resolved upon these few lines to disire y^r^ L—— [*sic*] to assist him towards the furnishing him . . . and his plantation with what you can, . . . he is indifferently well provided with that wch may be usefull in

those p'ts. And that he shall be very well supplyed by his brother Mr Compton Donadence of Woodstock and other rich kinsfolks, besides his place Sir Edm. of Dorburg; he hath a plantacon in the barbados, and a stock going wth his uncle Capt. Pell . . . all wth him intends to imploy in the Provinces yf hee like the Country, and find good friends amongst y^{rs}; for my parte I have always found him here faire dealinge, and friendly and constant in his wayse, I doubt not but that soe hee will shew himselfe amonge you. And therefore I would entreate you to show him as many Courtesies as you can, as you would show your humble servant."

Plowden chose to tarry in Virginia rather than in Maryland, and there is an account against him by the clerk of Northampton Court recorded, in which are the following items:

"Sir Edmund Plowden

D^{r} to Edm: Mathews

		lb. tob.
1643,	ffor takinge ffower Depositions att the Soxochar affi, and cop. attested under my hands wch Sir Edm. Plowden p'tented to carry for England, the busines a description of New Albion	150
	ffor searching several Books att ye office in Jamestowne, and transcribinge Cop. of manuscripts here described to have to testifye to his friends in England	150"

There are other brief notices of Plowden on the records showing his residence in the county, among others the verdict between a prominent merchant, "Capt. Thomas Burbage plaintiff and Edmund Ployden," dated March 6, 1642–43.